

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRASIL 01705 041705Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----041732Z 024713 /43

O 041735Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0369

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1705

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, BR

SUBJECT: PRESS LEAK ON US-BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR TALKS--

FONMIN SILVEIRA RESPONDS

REF: BRASILIA 1679

1. AT 8:45 P.M. LAST NIGHT I RECEIVED AT HOME SILVEIRA'S
RESPONSE TO MY LETTER (REF), WHICH WE HAD DELIVERED TO
SILVEIRA'S OFFICE AT 630 P.M. AN INFORMAL TRANS-
LATION OF THE TEXT FOLLOWS:

BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR JOHN,

II JUST RECEIVED YOUR LETTER. BE CERTAIN THAT I WAS AS
SURPRISED AS YOU WERE WITH THE ARTICLE IN INFORME JB TO
WHICH YOU REFER.

"IN SPITE OF THE INNUMERABLE DISTORTIONS AND IMPRECISIONS
IN THE ARTICLE, AS WELL AS OF ITS TONE, I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU
COULD ATTRIBUTE IT TO A PARTICIPANT OR PARTICIPANTS ON THE
BRAZILIAN SIDE. BUT OF THIS, NEITHER I NOR YOU CAN BE
ABSOLUTELY SURE.

"WITH THE SAME FRANKNESS WITH WHICH YOU WROTE ME, I

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WISH TO SAY THAT I SEE NO ADVANTAGE IN DENYING THE REF-
ERENCED ARTICLE, AMONG OTHER REASONS, BECAUSE, IN MY JUDG-
MENT, A DENIAL WOULD SERVE ONLY TO PROVOKE A SERIES OF NEW
COMMENTARIES AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS CAPABLE OF PREJUDICING
EVEN MORE THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. AS HAS BEEN
THE CASE RECENTLY, I BELIEVE THAT, IN THIS CASE AS WELL,
MY SILENCE WILL BE MOST USEFUL.

"IN THE SAME SPIRIT, I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE UPI DISPATCH (ATTACHED) CONTAINING STATEMENTS TODAY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S SPOKESMAN WHICH AFFIRM, INEXACTLY, THAT THE SIDES 'AGREED TO RECESS IN ORDER TO GIVE BRAZIL TIME TO STUDY OUR PROPOSALS.' AND HE ADDED, 'WE EXPRESSED OUR INTEREST IN FINDING SAFE AND RELIABLE ALTERNATIVES.' AS YOU KNOW WELL, A STATEMENT OF THIS TYPE WAS CLEARLY EXCLUDED IN MY UNDERSTANDINGS WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS NEGOTIATED PRECISELY IN ORDER TO AVOID UNILATERAL STATEMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS SUCH AS THIS ONE.

"RESPECTFULLY,

"A. DA SILVEIRA END QUOTE

2. COMMENT. I JUDGE SILVEIRA'S LETTER TO BE A REASONABLY SOFT REPLY, EVEN WITH ITS COMPLAINT ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS. SILVEIRA HAS RESPONDED IN AN ARTFUL WAY THAT PERMITTED HIM TO AVOID TAKING PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TONE OF, AND THE FACT OF, THE ARTICLE. AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAVED FACE BY SCORING A FEW POINTS OF HIS OWN. I THINK IT IS BEST TO LET THINGS LIE NOW, RATHER THAN, FOR INSTANCE, TO SEEK TO EXPLAIN THE SPOKESMAN'S REMARKS. I BELIEVE THE EXCHANGE WITH SILVEIRA SHOULD MAKE THE GOB SOMEWHAT MORE CAREFUL IN FUTURE BACKGROUNDING.
CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: NEWS LEAKS, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Drafter: n/a
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Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770394/aaaadesl.tel
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Litigation Codes:
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